

HAMUN 42

Triple Joint Crisis

The French and Indian War: Siege of Quebec, Summer 1759



Background

The Seven Years' War (1756-1763) was perhaps the first true world war in human history. Britain and France engaged each other in various theaters, ranging from mainland Europe to colonial holdings in the Mediterranean, Africa, India, the Caribbean, and North America. Locally, the North American theater of this expansive war is known as the French and Indian War, and most importantly to the United States, it is extremely relevant in understanding the foundation of this nation. The tense colonial relationships with Britain were an issue that existed before the war and were not remedied by the end. Economic circumstances and the grip of British authority as a result of the war ultimately contributed to revolution. Of course, there is no disputing that France finished this conflict with a keen desire to bite back at their nemesis across the English Channel.

Many years before, the European powers began to colonize the New World and France was a little late to the game. The Spanish had already made their way through Central and South America, along with territory in the southern portion of North America. Meanwhile, the English had begun to settle the eastern seaboard of North America. This pushed French aspirations into the open regions of Canada where they looked to towards fur resources. The French used better

judgment in seeking a solution to the Native Americans and looked to establish friendlier relations. While there were certainly examples of terrible exploitation of the natives, the French had a much better relationship with the Indians. They favored forts and trading posts instead of the opting for the methods of conquest other European nations engaged in. Claiming dominion for the French king in this way helped keep the relationship with the natives amicable which only helped French economic goals. By the mid-1500s, the French explorer La Salle traveled the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the river and all lands it branched into in the name of France. This was in fact a much larger piece of territory than even La Salle imagined and provided a road block for the growing ambitions of the other European colonies. These ambitions did not lead to hostilities until the 1750s.

British colonists quickly began to fill the gaps and came into contact with French forts. Lieutenant Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent an expedition to build a fort at the meeting point of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers to form the Ohio River Valley, but that group was met by a mixture of French soldiers and their native allies. They managed to expel the Virginian force from the area and finished the fort themselves. The fort, known as Fort Duquesne, became the center of many colonial attempts to re-establish dominance, but they all failed. This level of threat to the colonies prompted Benjamin Franklin into

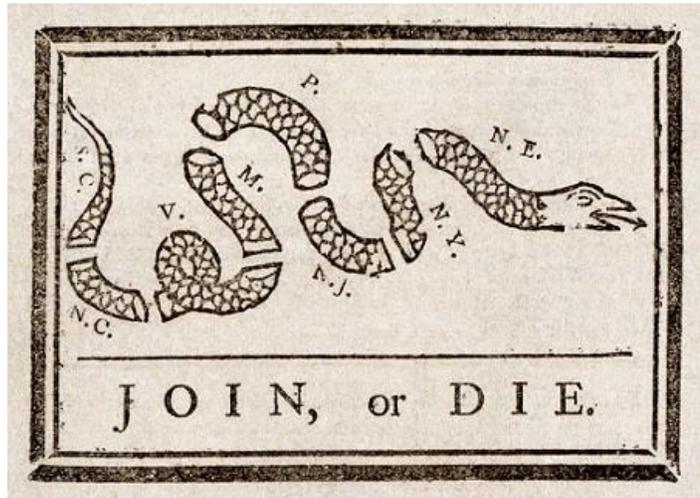


Figure 1: Benjamin Franklin's Join or Die Cartoon, Plan of Union

creating the Albany Plan of Union which would have created an

overarching governing entity to manage colonial defense and address other matters of great concern. While the Plan of Union never went into effect, the British government was prompted into sending more soldiers to defend the colonies from the French. An expedition under General Braddock, accompanied by a young George Washington, proved to be a devastating failure that resulted in extreme losses, including the death of Braddock, after they were ambushed by French and Indian forces. This loss emboldened the French and their native allies into increasing their

activity along the frontiers and fueled further tensions between Britain and France. With the Seven Years' War really beginning to heat up on the continent, the French and Indian War was birthed. France continued to make significant gains in all theaters throughout the early years of the war and mounted significant pressure on the British government. With embarrassment after embarrassment occurring in the Mediterranean, India, the Caribbean, and North America, Britain needed to make a dramatic change in the way they managed the war. That change came through William Pitt.



Figure 2: William Pitt, Secretary of State and Architect of Britain's Success

Once William Pitt came to power as the Secretary of State and began to manage Britain's execution of the Seven Years' War, their fortunes took a turn for the better. Pitt went after France with an almost religious fervor and brought a direct approach to the war that focused on definitively crushing the French to the point where they would never be able to rise again to hurt British supremacy anywhere in the world. This approach began to yield incredible success for Britain in every theater of the war. The French faced defeat after defeat and ceded territory in the Caribbean, Africa, the Mediterranean, and India to British forces. These successes reached the North American theater as well and the French and Indian War started to go very well for Britain and her colonies.

After suffering a defeat to the French in July 1758 at the Battle of Carillon at Fort Ticonderoga, British forces regrouped and came back hard to win a powerful victory at Louisbourg. It was all part of a four-pronged attack into Canada that would move British forces into the territory through Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River. Despite the loss at Carillon which kept Champlain as a French asset, the important capture of



Figure 3: Siege of Louisbourg

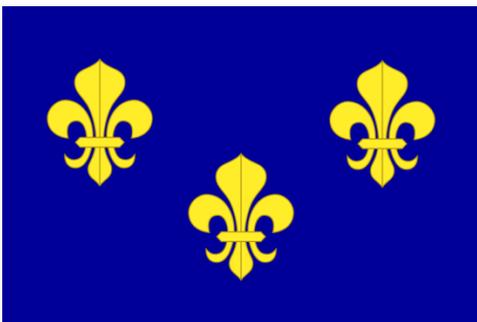
Louisbourg allowed the British an open attack route to Quebec from the Atlantic. Losses in the Ohio Valley proved further detrimental to French power in the region with the British capturing Fort Frontenac and the Forbes Expedition resulted in several native allies abandoning the French and the abandonment of Fort Duquesne. French forces retreated to Canada where their last real position of strength remained. Now in the summer of 1759, the city of Quebec was the pivotal stronghold and if it fell to the British, France would definitively lose the French and Indian War. This simulation will start at the end of June 1759 as Major General Wolfe and his army set up around Quebec to lay siege on Major General Montcalm and his remaining French soldiers.

Geography of Quebec:

Quebec sits on the northern shore of the St. Lawrence River and is placed on a high bluff that overlooks the junction between the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles, a smaller river. Where the two rivers converge, a long estuary to the Atlantic begins, but just upstream, the river becomes incredibly dangerous to navigate. This means the easiest and most practical way to approach the city is from a plain to the west. If placed there, artillery could successfully bombard the city from the southern bank of the St. Lawrence. Currently, summer is keeping the river in play, but if the siege lasts too long and winter arrives, the river will freeze and that would make a British siege incredibly difficult without the support of their ships.

While this may seem difficult to visualize just reading the guide, delegates will be able to interact with maps during conference in order to strategize and accurately plan attacks and defenses.

French Military Cabinet Concerns:

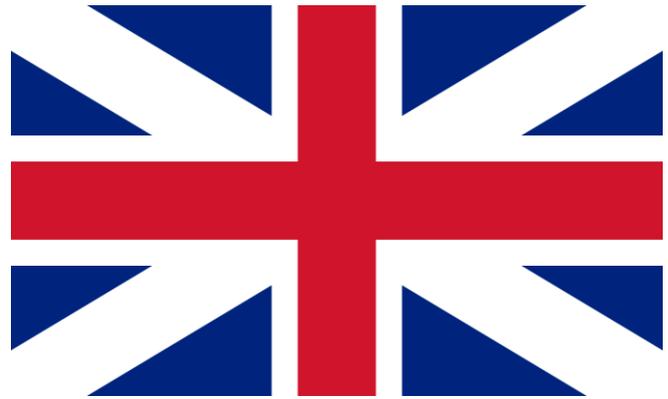


This is the last stand as far as French interests in North America are concerned. If Quebec is lost, all colonial enterprises in North America will likely be compromised and the France will certainly lose prestige on the global stage. In this era of empire-building, losing out on the resources, trade, and territory of the New World, especially after losing important colonies in the Caribbean, could stall

French ambition for decades. Pitt's vendetta against France has wrecked the war effort around the world and now, if Quebec is lost and Canada is added to the long list of territories robbed from France, the king will have no choice but to watch as the British surpass his beautiful nation. These are the stakes upon French soldiers in holding Quebec. It would serve them well to take them seriously. The Cabinet members must do what must be done to hold this city...they must make new treaties and deals with the Iroquois Confederacy in order to stall the British from seizing any advantage and fight to the last man. They have to find a way to win. It is the least France expects.

British Military Cabinet Concerns:

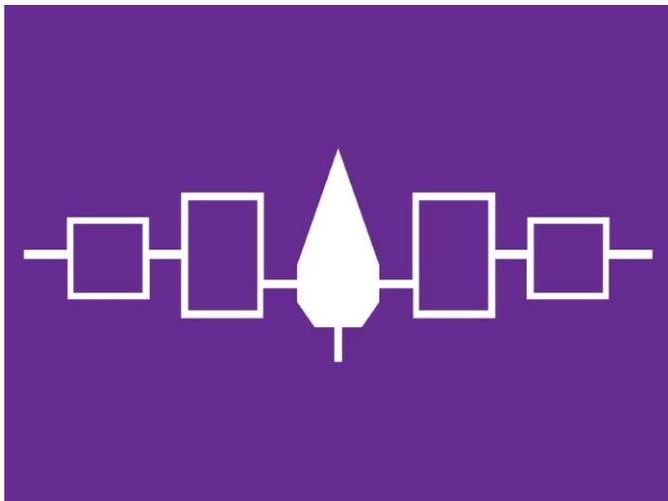
Right then, the French have been pushed back into this final stronghold, and Britain's soldiers are on the precipice of greatness. With one decisive battle, North America can be one more piece of the British imperial project and as per William Pitt's directives, the French need to be crushed so they do not rise again to threaten British power. However, this is not a zero-sum game. Despite the desire to wipe the French from Canada, British forces cannot sustain the same levels of damage. This colony must be secured after the battle and there must be a force significant enough to maintain peace and prevent any French insurrections. Everyone loves a daring plan, but recklessness in battle will have unfortunate consequences for those not smart enough to think through their steps. It would be a great coup to strike a deal with the Iroquois Confederacy in order to tighten the noose on Quebec and establish peace once the war has been won. Furthermore, the relationship with Britain's current colonies must be sustained. For quite some time, many British officials have viewed the American colonies as a disposable dumping ground for societal groups that proved troublesome back home and as a nice source of income. William Pitt, whose grand vision of imperial power depended on mutual respect and growth between the home nation and her colonies, has sent more troops and subsidies to the colonies in order to keep the colonists happy in their relationship with Britain. Yet, tensions still



remain, and efforts must be made to ensure Britain and the American colonies will prosper for decades to come.

Iroquois Confederacy Concerns:

For the purpose of this crisis simulation, the Iroquois Confederacy will be portrayed and understood as a neutral participant in the conflict. Please disregard any research that explains



who the Iroquois were sided with in June of 1759. Research that explains attitudes towards the French and the British will certainly be useful and helpful in providing delegates with the right frame of mind when they begin to make negotiations with the other two committees to sign the treaty that best addresses the concerns of the Iroquois people. As the British prepare to besiege the French held up in Quebec, several influential people

within the Iroquois Confederacy have met to discuss the future of their people. It is impossible to continue with life as they know it because one of these European powers will win the day and be staying for good. Now is the time to decide where the Iroquois people will place their future. However, they will not just take anything that comes their way; several demands must be met. Firstly, the Iroquois want to retain control of the Ohio River Valley and close it off from European settlement. This land must be preserved or the Iroquois people will continue to be forced from their homes at the behest of the white colonists. The Iroquois must also be allowed to participate in whatever commerce and trade the colonists are engaging in, whether that be fur or even weapons. The Iroquois must be treated with respect by their new partner. If the British or French decide to forego that respect, they will bleed.

For the Delegates from the Crisis Director:

This committee will hopefully be a challenging experience for all the right reasons. Like any good crisis committee, we will be engaging in a bit of alternate history in order to bend the

rules a little and let you express ideas and plans in the best way possible. It can certainly get confusing when it comes to research because we will be operating on assumptions that don't exist and some of you will be portraying people who either weren't actually at the Battle of the Fields of Abraham or didn't exist at all. I very much understand that that can be a scary prospect because there is a lot of pressure on you to bring someone to life and influence your committee. My advice is to embrace that liberation and really take steps on your own to build your role how you see it. As long as you bring aspects in that are deemed appropriate by the Crisis Staff, we will gladly take that into our stride and help each and every one of you be a unique player in your respective committees. So, in summary, don't worry too much about the parts of our scenario that do not reflect history. As you research and prepare, just absorb the feelings, tensions, and motives that existed in the French and Indian War between the players involved and at conference, hit us with everything you've got and just have a good time. We will do our best to help you feel accomplished once HAMUN 42 has ended.

Also, as mentioned earlier, I am preparing interactive maps that will help you make accurate strategy and more tangibly understand what your military assets are and where you place them. These will *hopefully* be an incredibly successful piece of our simulation and will be further explained during committee. I can't wait to get started with all of you in February. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email nicky@ctmun.org and we will all do our best to help you prepare. See you at HAMUN 42!